

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claims 13-16, 20, and 21 are cancelled. Claims 1-12, 19, and 22-28 remain in this application and, as amended herein, are submitted for the Examiner's reconsideration.

A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is submitted with the present Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 1-12, 19-20, and 22-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito (U.S. Patent No. 5,671,354) in view of Shiotsu (U.S. Patent No. 6,993,358). Claim 20 is cancelled. Applicants submit that the remaining claims are patentably distinguishable over the relied on sections of the references.

As amended herein, claim 1 calls for:

in response to a user of a first one of said plurality of client terminal devices requesting communication using a selected communication application with a user of a second one of said plurality of client terminal devices, said communication server machine being further operable (i) to determine whether the selected communication application is suitable for communication between the first client terminal device and the second client terminal device based on first user information specific to the user of the first client terminal device and second user information specific to the user of the second client terminal device, (ii) if the selected communication application is suitable, to determine whether the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device based on the first user information and the second user information, the type of peripheral device including at least one of a microphone or a camera, and (iii) if the type of peripheral device associated with the first client terminal device can communicate with the type of peripheral device associated with the second client terminal device, to provide a connection for communication between the first client terminal

device using its associated peripheral device and the second client terminal device using its associated peripheral device.

(Emphasis added.)

Neither the relied on sections of Ito nor the relied on sections of Shiotsu disclose or suggest determining whether a type of peripheral device associated with a first client terminal device can communicate with a type of peripheral device associated with a second client terminal device. Moreover, neither the relied on sections of Ito nor the relied on sections of Shiotsu disclose or suggest such a determination based on first user information (specific to the user of the first client terminal device) and second user information (specific to the user of the second client terminal device) and neither discloses or suggests that the type of peripheral device includes at least one of a microphone or a camera. Further, neither the relied on sections of Ito nor the relied on sections of Shiotsu disclose or suggest, if the types of peripheral devices associated with the first and second client terminal device can communicate, providing a connection for communication between a first client terminal device using its associated peripheral device and a second client terminal device using its associated peripheral device.

It follows, for at least the above reasons, that neither the relied-on sections of Ito nor the relied-on sections of Shiotsu, whether taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the communication system defined in claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on references.

Independent claims 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 19, and 25-28 have each been amended to call for features similar to those set out in the above excerpt of claim 1, and each is therefore patentably distinct and unobvious over the relied-on sections

Ito and Shiotsu at least for the same reasons.

Claim 22 depends from claim 1, claim 23 depends from claim 2, and claim 24 depends from claim 9, claims 4-5 depend from claim 3, claims 7-8 depend from claim 6, claim 24 depends from claim 9, and claims 11-12 depend from claim 10. Each of these claims is therefore distinguishable over the relied-on sections of the references for at least the same reasons as its parent claim.

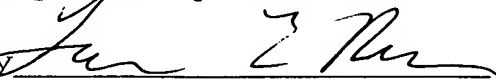
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

BY 

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